WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26, 1890.

NEWS OF THE WORLD IN BRIEF.

A fire hydrant has been ordered to be erected at the southeast corner of Sixth and College streets.

The well on Ha.f street, between N and O, has been ordered to be filled and the pump removed. The charges against Private A. C. F. Knopp, of the Metropolitan Police Force, have been dismissed.

A curb, gutter and sidewalk have been ordered to be laid on Boundary, V and Seaton streets under the permit system. The teachers of the Washington High School have adopted appropriate resolutions anent the death of Charlotte E. Denham. General Ordway has extended the use of the National Guard rifle gallery, on D street, to the members of the police force

for revolver practice. A rickety old wagon and an Avenue car, No. 36, collided at Tenth street last evening with disastrous results to the wagon, owned by an old gentleman named Benjamin Sim-

Hirsm Richey, property man at Harris'
Theatre, claims to have been robbed of \$7
by three negro highwaymen yesterday near
the Catholic University. The police dis-

Howells' play, "The Mouse Trap," was rendered in the lecture room of All Souls' Church last night for the benefit of the Homographic Free Disponsary by a very capable party of amateurs.

#### Domestic.

The West Virginia Legislature adjourned

Rev. Thomas B. Lemon, formerly of Bal-timore, died in Omaha.

One of the suits against Keely, of Keely motor fame, has been abandoned.

Annapolis wants a better right of way through Naval Adademy property.

Governer, McKinger has alonged the bill Governor McKinney has signed the bill annexing Atlantic City to Norfolk.

The Atlantic Coastline system propose consolidating a number of Southern roads. George Wheeler was arrested in New York charged with passing counterfeit

A Baltimore firm is building six 250-horse power boilers for the new sugar re-Cashier Van Zandt, of the New York Lenox Hill Bank, has been indicted for Manager Barnie has signed Thomas Power

of San Francisco to captain the Baltimore Baseball Club. Treasurer Flynn of Custer County, S. D., is charged with being a defaulter to the extent of \$12,000.

The late Miss Warfield of Sykesville, Carroll County, left a bequest for an Epis-copalian college.

The trial of Thomas Ferrell, at Hamlin, W. Va., for killing Albert Bucher, resulted in a verdict of acquittal.

In a verdict of acquittal.

A tornado swept over northern Texas blowing down the Masonic Hall and othe buildings in Gainesville.

A party of grave robbers were surprise by the police in a Louisville cemetery an one killed and two captured.

C. C. Carpenter of New York manufacturer of bustles and rubber goods, hafalled, with liabilities of about \$100,000.

The Pennsylvania and Western Marylan Railroads are reaching an agreement con-cerning the latter company's tidewater plan.

Jimmy Keenan of Baltimore whippel John Monahan of New York in a three-round fight near Annapolis, Md., last even-

A bill to consolidate the railroads con-stituting what is known as the Coast Line has been introduced in the Virginia Legis-Barbara Jorden, a colored servant in the family of A. P. Merriman, 2012 North Charles street, Baltimore, was suffocated

Charles Hanley and William Dolson were suffocated by gas in a crossing watch-house of the Vandalia Road at Terre

Darrymen along the line of the Maryland Central met at Belair and organized for protection against irresponsible milk dealers in Baltimore.

The one hundred and first annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Conference of the United Brethren Church is progressing in Chambersburg, Pa. The funeral of John Jacob Astor in New

York was devoid of any display, the re-mains being laid beside those of Mrs. Astor in Trinity Cemetery. Hundreds of people are gathering on the

southern border of Kansas, prepared to cross to the Cherokee Strip when the President shall declare it open.

Petitions against the gas bill which is now before the Maryland Legislature were pre-sented in the House of Delegates to-day. Over 22,000 citizens of Baltimore signed the The Kearney, Hutchinson and Gulf Railway Company has been chartered to construct a road 900 miles in length across the

State of Kansas, and to connect with the Union Pacific. Governor Mckinney of Virginia has commuted the punishment of Henry Moore, colored, under sentence of death for mur-der in Greenville County, to eighteen years

in the penitentiary. During a raid on a distillery by revenue officers near Hillsboro, N. C., Revenue Agent S. Kirkpatrick received a dangerous

wound and a negro belonging to the dis tillery was shot and killed. The officers of the United States Secret The onicers of the United States Secret Service Bureau are still investigating the alleged larceny of a quantity of gold from the Mint, which was offered for sale in Camden, N. J., a few days ago.

A jury in the City Court at Baltimore gave Mrs. Sarah L. Smithson and her six children a verdict of \$13,800 against Lowe & Westwood, an insolvent firm of builders. Mr. Smithson was killed by a brick that fell from their building. from their building.

## Foreign.

Mr. Gladstone has mastered the grip and is rapidly recovering. The journeymen bakers of Vienna are on a general strike for an increase of wages.

England and Belgium have accepted Germany's invitation to take part in the Berlin labor conference. The Governor-General of the Phillipine slands has decided to turn the Soolog Islands into a convict colony.

The American donations to the Land League received in in London during the past two weeks foot up \$50,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer declare

that no bill authorizing the Bank of England to issue one-pound notes had been pre-pared. The French Chamber of Deputies has adopted a rule to prevent deputies from defying the speaker, and compelling order

in that wody.

William Latham Bright, second son of the late John Bright, has resigned his seat in the British House of Commons, because of ill-health.

It is officially announced at Berne that the labor conference, which it was proposed to hold in Berne, has been abandoned by the government.

tives has adopted a resolution to tax book-makers, and increase the levy upon reve-

Mr. Cobb has given notice in the House of Commons that he would motion, in con-nection with the Parnell Commission, a re-port to connect Lord Satisbury and Mr. Balfour with the Parnellites.

Sir James Fergusson, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Foreign Office, stated in Parliament that Canada only had power to revive the modus vicenti with the United States on the flahery question.

A committee has been formed in London, with branches at New Castle and other places, for the purpose of endeavoring t secure a mitigation of the severe treatmen accorded to political prisoners in Siberia.

The Duke of Orleans, who was on Monday night removed from the Conciergeri to the prison at Clairvtux, is treated as political prisoner. The list of the persons who were permitted to visit him has been

MR. OBERLY IS SWORN.

Lively Beginning of the Civil Service Investigation.

APPEARANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

Objection Made to Calling Mr. Oberly as a Witness.

His Attention Drawn in 1888 to the Theft of Papers Sold to Conchers— They Went for Ten and Fifteen Dollars a Piece.

Ten o'clock this morning was the time appointed for the beginning of the investigation into the irregularities in the Civil Service Commission by the House Committee. It was nearly three-quarters of an hour later before everybody had become settled and the music begau. The three Civil Service Commissioners were first to put in their appearance, and, headed by Theodore Roosevelt, they filed into the committee room, looking as solemu and dignified as district school-masters. Mr. Roosevelt took a seat directly back of the chairman's seat, wiped his eyeglasses and appeared as innocent as i he had never done a wrong thing in his life.

Commissioner Lyman, his full beard trimmed to a nicety, sat beside Mr. Roosevelt with his legs crossed, while Bishop Oberly, ex-commissioner, with his face beaming, sat on the opposite side of the room, looking as if he had come prepared to open somebody's eyes.
At precisely 10:45 o'clock the chairman rapped the committee to order and the music began when he said:

"Before the investigation begins Mr. Lyman would like to correct a state-ment which he formerly made." Mr. Lyman simply wanted to say that at the time his attention was called to the handwriting of certain letters written by Alexander Campbell relative to the stolen questions from the secretary's division, several days had elapsed instead of one as he had testified.

Mr. Oberly was then called to the stand. Commissioner Thompson sprang up and said: "I object to Mr. Oberly's being placed on the stand from the fact that the present Commissioners are the ones to be tried, and that it is unjust that derogatory telegrams be sent all over the world while the Commissioners are unable to defend themselves, and all that Mr. Oberly can say is whether he has discovered any wrong in the commission relative to Mr. Campbell, and this he has done. The committee decided to swear Mr.

Mr. Oberly testified that he was connected with the Commission from April, 1886, to October, 1888. He knew Alexander Campbell, but he had not heard of any full investigation as to Mr. Campbell's abstracting any ques-

tions from the secretary's division.
"My first information bearing on the subject was during the first part of 1888, when my attention was called to the fact that papers were being stolen and sold to coachers. I then discovered that these questions were being sold for \$15 and \$10 apiece. My first impression was that Mr. Flyhn of the Ivy Institute had secured a copy and was duplicating them and selling them. When a lady came to me and told me that a certain employe in the Commission had abstracted the questions and gave me ample evidence that she was right, then it was that I determined upon an investigation as to whether there was any truth in the matter. President E. gerton said that he would have nothing to do with an investigathat it would nothing, and would be so much time Mr. Lyman, however, said that such an investigation should take place and that the person who abstracted the questions should be discovered and punished. Mr. Edgerton, however, refused again to take part in any inves tigation. Some manuscript which I had obtained as evidence against the abstractor of the questions I decided to lock in the safe until the Commissioners decided to make an investigation. A week passed, but nothing was done, I then determined to investigate matter myself with the help of Secre-

tary Doyle. Mr. Doyle secured the handwriting of every employe in the Commission, and it was compared with the manuscript. It was identical with the handwriting of Mr. Campbell. I then instructed Mr. Doyle to inform Commissioner Lyman of the discovery I followed him into Mr. Lyman's office shortly afterward.

Mr. Lyman said that he had seen Campbell, and that the latter had con Campbell, and that the internal new fessed to making a copy of the questions and giving it to a lady friend in the Pension Office who desired a promo-

'This is a delicate question for me ttake hold of, and I wish you would make a thorough investigation into the matter, but do not be unnecessarily hard on Campbell

'I then called on the woman at the Pension Office before Campbell could get a chance to see her. I accused her of the charge. She was rather glad to see me when I first appeared, but after I had told her of my mission she looked as if she would like to have me leave. But I didn't. After a wrangle with the But I didn't. After a wrangle with the young lady the latter made an admis-sion that she had received questions from Campbell, but claimed that Campbell was not to blame, but had influenced by her. I made a thorough examination and discovered that nobody had been injured, the service was in no wise hurt, and I concluded that it was not necessary to mmend the dismissal of Mr. Camp-

After Mr. Oberly had gone over a long harrangue of unnecessary talk Commit-teeman Hopkins said, peevishly, "Now, excuse me, but, Mr. Chairman, what is this witness talking about?'

"He is apparently outlining the charge against the Commissioners relative to Well, that is all right, but time is

valuable to be taken up by elaborate reminiscences, as the witness seems to telling us.

Mr. Oberly was instructed to keep into the line of facts, and looked very much Mr. Oberly testified that he did not consider the offence of Mr. Campbells

such a heinous one as to recommend his discharge. Lawyer Ewart then took up the cross examination, and, after asking everal apparently unimportant questions of the witness, said:

"Had the questions abstracted ever been used before?

Never in Washington." "Were they used anywhere else?" "Did you not recognize that the ques-

tions abstracted were those only re-cently used prior to that time?" Yes, I think I did." Mr. Ewart then went on to show by ucationing the witness that, when he lid make the Investigation, he EXPOSING THE FRAUDS.

thought it of sufficient impor-tance to discharge him and then afterward changed his mind suddenly to the thought that after all the offense was not a grave one. Mr. Oberly admitted that his mind was changed by the position Campbell held toward Commissioner Lyman. The witness denied that he furnished information to Mr. if atter relative to the latter.

Hatton, relative to the inside workings of the Commission "As to the act of Mr. Lyman in promoting Mr. Campbell, which was considered illegal, will you give me your

The chairman overruled the question and Mr. Oberly's examination con-

cluded. Mr. W. J. Vickery, an employe in the Commission, was placed in the wit-ness chair. He claimed that he had no personal knowledge relative to Campbell's action, and everything he knew

Lawyer Ewart said that Mr. Vickery was called for the purpose of show-ing that the office was thrown into a state of excitement over the investigation, in contradiction of the statements of the three Commissioners, one of whom stated that it was simply a slight indiscretion on the part of Campbell, and amounted to nothing of any material consequence.

Mr. Vickery stated that there was considerable disturbance at that time, and that the abstracting of questions

was considered a crime.

Miss Emily M. Dabney was placed
on the stand and made a startling
revelation relative to the questions and ontradicted Mr. Oberly and placed that gentleman in a very unenviable light. Miss Dabney is a young lady who was offered questions by Mr. Flynn for a consideration and who was looking for a promotion in the Treasury Department. She said she knew that Mr. Flynn was a good coacher and went to him to be coached for the ex-

"During my conversation with Mr. "During my conversation with Mr. Flynn," said the witness, "he said. 'I have the questions which will be asked you by the Board of Examiners and will sell them to you for \$25 if you do not tell anybody.' I told him that I did not have that much money, but it was a great temptation, and I would think When I returned to Mr. Flynn I had made up my mind that it was not right and concluded to stand on my own merits. I failed to pass my examination, and told Mr. Flynn so. It was then suggested that in as much as I was sick I might have another examination, and the questions were again offered me for \$15. I asked to see the questions after the examination and discovered them to be the same as were asked me by the Board of Examiners." She obtained the questions and pro-ceeded with them to Commissioner Oberly, who recognized the hand-writing as that of Mr. Campbell. Miss Dabney claimed that these same questions were offered her prior and after the examination, and that the same were written by Mr. Campbell, which went to show that the questions were

abstracted for pecuniary purposes. William E. Morgan, an ex-employe, stated that there was not much excite ment about the office from the fact that those who did know of it were bound to

"By whom?" Lawyer Ewart asked.
"Mr. Oberly," answered the witness.
"Would you have considered it right to have given those questions away?"
"No, sir; I knew that
the questions were eligible,
and I should have considered

that my services would have been im-mediately dispensed with. Then my sense of honor would not have peris nettled Mr. Oberly and he asked the witness:

'Do you think that after I had investigated it, that if you had given away such questions that I would have dismissed you from the service?"
"Well, judging from your action to-

ward Mr. Campbell, I do not think you Professor S. W. Flynn, the coacher, was the next witness. He proceeded to deny all of Miss Dabney's testimony. 'Do you know the handwriting of M . Campbell?" asked Mr. Ewart.

"Did you give Miss Dabney any exumination questions?'
"No, sir."

'Did you offer her any?' 'No, sir, but let me explain myself.' "Miss Dabney came to me and told me pitiful tale about her poor mother and her own poverty and excited my sympathy. Prior to this a Mrs. Smith had given me a lot of questions which I considered worthless and which Mrs. Smith claimed had been given to her. Where she got them I do not know. but I supposed from some person who had passed the civil service examination. I offered to give Miss Dabney a copy of these questions, thinking they might benefit her, as an act of charity.

'If you thought these questions were valueless, why was it charity on your part to give them to Miss Dabney? Because I knew that all examina tion questions are more or less alike. occasion when Miss Dabney came into possession of the questions offered to copy them for her and give her the copy, but after the interview on that day I discovered that the original questions were missing, and I imme-diately suspected Miss Dabney as taking

Why did you not give her the original instead of a copy of the questions, if you considered them worthless?" Because I like to be discreet in sending out other people's handwriting."

The committee then took a recess until 3 o'clock.

## TIMBER STEALING.

Covernment Lands Depuded of Trees by Thieving Canadians, WHITE EARTH, MINN., Feb. 26 .-Deputy United States Marshal George Campbell, who went from Red Lake with a posse of Indian police to investi-gate the reported timber stealing in the vicinity of Rainy Lake, with Instructions to arrest any persons found trespassing on Indian or Government lands, has returned here. They say timber thieving has been carried on for many years, until now the banks of streams emptying into Rainy Lake have been denuded of all marketable pine and hard-wood timber. Most of these lum-bermen are Canadians, who come in and cut timber on American soil under the pretext that they have a right to do so because their wives are Indian women

belonging to the Red Lake Reservation. was also ascertained that the whisky traffic is carried on indiscriminately in by the Canadians. Furs are bought from Indians in exchange for whisky and many young girls, mere children, are bartered away for a few pints of the vilest of intoxicants. Rat Portage, on the Canadian side, forms the headquarters for the supply of the

The motion for a new trial in the case Dick Stauton, Grace Ott and Mary Thomas, which has been pending for some weeks, was argued to-day. It was denied, and sentence deferred until Saturday.

Light of Public Opinion Turned Fall on Gross Injustices.

WHAT THE MERCHANTS HAVE TO SAY.

More Instances of Unfair Discrimination in Making Assessments.

Property Valued at Ten Dollars Per Foot Assessed at Two Dollars— Business Men Wanted for Asses-sors—floard of Equalization.

The question of unjust discrimination the Board of Tax Assessors taken up by The Chitric, creating widespread attention taken up and scarcely an instance where person has been interviewed on this matter has the system of taxation not been condemned as unfair? A large number of business men have been interviewed and their opinions reiterate what others have said in condemnation of the present mode of assessment. They believe that the assessors are also overworked, and that a permanent Board of Assessors should be appointed who should be allowed ample time to carry on their work.

John H. Magruder said: "I have been

watching with considerable interest the agitation of the assessment question in THE CRITIC, and I want to you are coming out with Mr. Warner. Now, I don't want to be placed in the position of finding fault with the assessors, for I honestly believe that they conscientiously do their duty and have no intention whatever to commit a wrong. But they cannot possibly cover the District in the ninety days allowed them and either do justice to themselves or to the public. It is not fair to assess property at too big a price, but I think that whatever is done ought to be done carefully and systematically. You will find that many of these people who complain about property assessments below. plain about property assessments being too high live in a section of the city where prices are increasing rapidly They pay taxes on a valuation which is nowhere near what they consider the property worth, and if you approached them and offered even double the assessor's valuation they would throw up

their hands in amszement."

You will find no one who will sacrifice their property unless a crisis comes, and then it is only because they are frightened out or need the cash. I own a house on Sixteenth street, and the last time they assessed it I found that the value had increased very per-ceptibly. I went down to the office, looked the thing up and found it was all right. So I did not complain or say word. Assessors are like everyone else; they are bound to make mistakes once in a while. I remember that three years ago I bufft a barn on the rear end of my lot on Sixteenth street. I will say it was a very attractive looking brick stable, but when I came to pay my taxes I found that it had been assessed far above what it had ac-tually cost me. I laid an appeal before the Board of Equalization, and demon-strated to them, by actual contrast for years, that what I said was true, and they rectified the error. Right here is where the evil of the present system of assessment is illustrated very plainty. The assessor came around, sized up that barn on the outside and took it for granted without making any investigation or inquiry that the inside of the barn was furnished up in keephad plain stalls in it. I was born and brought up in Washington and I have watched with much interest the growth of the city and there has not ocen a time for years that the assessors had the time to properly and satisfac torily do their assessment work. Some years ago I was coming out of my house and found the assessor leaning over the front fence looking at the I asked him why he did not come in, and he replied that he did not have the time. He had no idea of how the interior of my house was furnished, and consequently could arrive at no reasonable idea of what the house was worth. He guessed at it, he said, beto find out what they were made of This is no fair way of equalizing taxes. "Just to illustrate, take the fated Tracy

The entire interior was panneled in hard wood and very sub stantially and handsomely furnished out. The assessor or anyone else standing upon the street and look-ing at the exterior of the house could come no where near giving any concep tion as to the amount of money spent on the interior. There are hundreds of houses just like this in Washington. outside of the building is no fair indication of what grandeur there is have been taken in frescoing, art decoration, wood carving, etc., that the assessors know nothing about, and just as they say, they haven't the time to go in

"How do they get at this?" asked the reporter.
"Why, they don't get at it at all, and for that reason I think there ought to be a change. It has been my idea for years that we ought to have the city districted out and have a man employed permanently by the Commissioners to nake these assessments in that district These then ought to be good judges of estate, give the work their entiattention and not feel that they must do t all in ninety days whether it be good,

bad or indifferent.

'Another thing they ought not do is to place an assessed valuation on an un-finished building. Let them wait until it is done and occupied, and then they can make the right valuation. Some use has been made of the Shoreham in connection with this agitation. Shoreham is virtually not finished today, and when the last valuation was placed on it the assessors must have just jumped at it, for they had nothing else to go by. More than this, I am in favor of abelishing the personal tax. It only teaches people to lie, and they do about it when they would not think of doing it on any other account. There are a good many people in Washington who are worth twenty times what I am who do not pay a single dollar's worth falsehood to get out of it. I am a mer chant, however, and am expected to pay up to the full extent,'

W. E. Reynolds said: "I can tell you one thing, that the property in which I am interested here in Georgetown is assessed much higher this last time than ever before, and I know that it is not on account of improvements, for I have not made any. We ought to have Board of Assessors constituted of men who know what real estate is There are certain improved sections of the town where the increase is the same n proportion as that in parts where there have been no improvements.

J. S. Blackford said: "This assessment is a very important matter, and we ought to have a Board of Assessors who

can give their whole time to it. The foundation of the government depends on what valuation the assessors place on real estate and the taxes that are divided. These assessors cannot guess at it, but must be familiar with the property an i

J. W. Offutt said: "I am satisfied J. W. Offutt said: "I am satisfied with my own assessment, but I feel that the work ought to be done by vary responsible and experienced men who are familiar with the properties that they are valuing. Perhaps a permanent board might do the work more thoroughly and satisfactorily." oughly and satisfactorily."

H. W. Fisher said: "I know that here are a good many comptaints in relation to the manner of equalizing the taxes. As far as I am concerned I think our assessment was very reason able. But I do know that the assessors as at present appointed do not have the time to give the work the attention they should, and for that reason I am in favor of a permanent board.'

John Archer said: "I don't think that taxes are equalized at all fairly and the Board of Assessors have been putting the figures up pretty well here in Georgetown. For instance, the old as sessment was 20 cents per foot, whereas the last one was 40 cents on my property. Some of this increase was taken from the old buildings and put upon the real estate, which is not right. W. S. Horton said: "I am under the

impression that the wealthier class of people do not pay as much tax in proportion as the poor do. It we had a permanent Board of Asses sors I am satisfied that they would give us a more equal assessment. They would be better judges of values and would pay more attention to complaints brought before them."

W. D. Clark said: "I admire the stand that The Carric has taken. From my personal notice I am satisfied that many properties are assessed too low. I have been here for twenty-five years and have watched the progress of the city, and think that if capitalists and speculators want to make money off of real estate they should pay taxes just the same as any one else."

J. W. Boteler said: "I think the assessments are unequal. I find that some of my more valuble property is assessed at a less value than the cheaper class in proportion. The tax assessors don't, I am afraid, allow for the deterioration of improvements. A house that has not been improved is assessed at the same value as when it was built.'

B. F. Guy said: "I have no fault to find with my assessment. I live in the eastern part of the city and I think my property is fairly valued. I am in favor, though, of a permanent Board of Assessors. I think this work ought to be performed by men who have some knowledge of real estate and know what

they are about." Francis Miller said: "I have read the articles in THE CRITIC, and I be lieve them to be correct. Heretofore I have not paid the matter much atten-tion, because it is like other affairs that belong to everybody and are looked after by none. I have no doubt that the assessments are very unequal on account of political and financial in-fluences. It is understood nowadays, anyway, that laboring men, mechanics,

merchants and clerks pay the taxes." William B. Moses said: "There will never be anything like just or equita-ble assessments as long as men are appointed assessors by political influence. What we want are business men for asessors, not mere clerks, who have simply signed somebody else's name all their lives. The present system is also bad. Assessors should be appointed to serve continually at a respectable salary nd their term of office should last from the time of their appointment until the

commencement of the next assessment. R. Goldschmidt said: "The last asessors were very fair. The F street property is assessed at from \$8 to \$10 pone could be bought for less than \$15 per foot. Most of it is worth \$25. hink small properties ought to be as sessed lower. On G street the assess nent is very low. Property there is selling from \$8 to \$10 which is assessed

it from \$2 to \$3." Wm. Ballantyne said: "It is a ques tion that I do not care to discuss. I know that I had one property on New York avenue which was assessed too I appealed to the Assessors but I got no relief. I have no doubt but great inequalities in the assessment of colty values exist I think also that not sonal taxes should be abolished and an extra price put on real estate if necessarv. The present system of taxing personal property puts a premium on

lishonesty G. T. Chase said that the exposure of public frauds was a matter of public in-

erest, and that the work of THE CRITIC was a public benefit. Mr. William A. Easterday said: "I hit from the shoulder; let it fall where it may. If evils exist they should be exposed, and, as newspapers are the best educators, they are also the best idapted for the purpose of exposing fraud.

Colonel Robert Boyd said: "A public fraud in the District belongs to every can in it, and should be exposed. Mr. J. W. Babson said: "The only way to correct an evil is to apply the

surgeon's knife at once, and bri

fore the public's eye. I think THE fairic is pursuing the proper course Unequal taxation is neither just nor quitable. All should pay alike. L. M. Johnson said: "I think THE CRITIC has done a world of good in its war upon the lottery company and ther evils, and I will say in regard to Mr. Warner's letter that wherever a

fraud exisits THE CRITIC is right in exposing it. Mr. William H. Hibbs said: "All evils should be exposed, and I heartily applaud The Churic in its efforts looking to the business interests

of Washington. Mr. William M. Mayes said: "I think board of responsible business men uld be appointed and given plenty of time to carefully examine real estate values and then let them say what the property shall be taxed. The Chiric is right and I am with it."

Mr. Philip T. Hall said: "You ca

say in the most positive language that fraud should be exposed without partiality and without fear. CRITIC is right in exposing all frauds, and I hope it will continue in the course t has taken." Mr. George W. Evans said: "Any fraud, whether of a public or private character, should be exposed, and instead of damaging the city I think it will improve it. It will be a warning

to the next parties in charge, thoroughly indorse The Critic." Henry M. Dexter said: "I hope yo Curric people will fetch them to time on this assessment deal, for it is a gross outrage on the poor that they have to pay the larger proportion of the taxes. This practice has been in vogue in the District of Columbia for a good many years, and I don't think that it will b remedied until we have representation in Congress and are given just the same

privileges that the States have. Just so long as the city is tied down to a Board of Commissioners to control public affairs, just so long will the abuses exist. I remember distinctly that about twelve years ago, I think it was The Chitte made a fight against the unequal assessment and had carried it just so far when they were compelled to drop it. The merchants who were carrying ad-vertisements in the paper went to the editor and said that if he did not discontinue the effort made to increase their axes they would be compelled to with draw their patronage from the paper. The boycotting scheme worked well and the paper stopped. Now, I hope this will not be the case with the pres-

ent management. T. R. Tracy said: "Frauds should always be exposed. There is only one thing about it—right is right, and the

sooner the frauds are brought to light the better. I think THE CRITIC is right in the stand it has taken." Major A. H. Johnson said: "Mr. Warner is in grave error in desiring to suppress the publication of matters which would go to show frauds in taxation. THE CRITIC deserves support in its effort to expose the evil."

### REPUBLICANS IN CAUCUS,

Ohio Representatives Discuss the Redistricting of Their State.

The sixteen Ohio Republican Representatives held a caucus last night to consider the proposed redistricting of that State by the Democratic Legislature, now in session, and to determine their course in regard to the Wickham bill. This latter, if it should become a law in time, would prevent the redistricting. It is also understood that the McComas bill will be introduced to day. As explained already in THE CRITIC, the McComas measure goes much fur-ther than the Wickham bill.

At the caucus fourteen out of the six-teen Representatives decided to support the Wickham bill, or whatever other measure seemed most likely to secure their object. The other two, Representatives McKinley and Butterworth, were opposed to doing anything which would prevent the Ohio Legislature from redistricting the State at this time if that body so desired. Their position was that the people had elected the Legislature, and that it should therefore be permitted to do what was lawful to

be done at the time of election.
They (Messrs. McKinley and Butterworth) were in favor of the Wick-ham bill or a similar meas-ure, designed to put a stop to the gerrymandering of States be-tween censuses, to go into effect after the coming census. It will be recol lected that the Wickham bill provides that each State shall be apportioned into Congressional Districts after each census, and that there shall be no other ap portionment until after the next suc cceding census. Each apportionment would thus stand for ten years.

The bill to redistrict Ohio is hung up because the Cincinnati members of the Legislature insist that a Sunday law, giving their constituents some of their old-time Sunday privileges, be made a rider to the bill. Unless this be done they refuse to vote for it. The time was when everything in Cincinnati was was when everything in Cincinnati was run "wide open" on Sunday. Now, everything is closed. The proposed rider, if it does not throw everything "wide open" as in the days of the recent yore, will widen them very appreciably. "Everything" here means bar rooms. The liquor element supported the Democratic ticket at the last election under a invalid second reserved. election under an implied promise that something would be done for it. The opportunity having come that element now insists upon the redemption of the promise. Hence the delay in the pas-

sage of the redistricting bill This delay affords the Republicans a chance to railroad a measure through Congress, which would make the proposed redistricting illegal. As stated fourteen of the sixteen Republican Rep resentatives from Ohio favor railroad ing some measure through. The other two, taking a longer look ahead, prefer to let the Democrats have all the they want in the fond hope that they

# LUMBER INSPECTORS

Want the District Commissioners to

Define Their Duties, The lumber inspectors of the have addressed a letter to the District Commissioners, calling attention to the law under which they are appointed and asking that their duties may be

more clearly defined. "We wish respectfully to state that there is a growing disposition on the part of the lumber dealers to ignore the lumber inspection law, and to assume that the inspection of lumber is optional with them. Some of the dealers have their own men to measure and inspect their lumber, and in most instances charge shippers their part of the fee prescribed by law, and also the extra fee for handling the lumber.

"It has been the custom for many years to charge a fee for handling or turning lumber. The custom was es-tablished by the shippers to avoid the detention of their vessels and to save dunuage or charges. Vessels being unvilling to wait for inspectors to measure their cargoes while they were being discharged, shippers arranged an extra handling, and agreed to pay for the same. The fees, as they now stand, are thirty cents per thousand for in-spection, as allowed by law, and fifteen cents per thousand for handling, allowed by the shippers. One half of the inspection fee for the handling is paid by the shipper (making thirty cents) and the other half of inspection (fifteen cents) is paid by the purchaser, the dealer, of course, paying charges and charging the his part. Some dealers now claim that we can only collect their part of the in spection (fifteen cents) from them, and ance (thirty cents) without having any hold upon the lumber inspected to secure payment. We respectfully ask that we may be advised by your honora-

bie board at your earliest opportunity."
The matter has been referred to the Attorney for the District.

Charles E. Taylor, a young man of unsound mind, who says his home is in San Francisco, was found walking about the streets last night with blood run ng from three gashes he had made in his throat with a razor. After the wounds had been dressed at the gency Hospital he was removed to Prov-idence Hospital. Two empty chloroform phials were found in his pockets.

Fatal Accident Enoch N. Lewis, a young man engaged a putting a tin roof over the elevator shaft a the Ceusus Office building fell down the shaft yesterday afternoon and was killed. The body was removed to his home at 1221 Wylle street, in the patrol wagon from the New Jersey avenue station-house Buy Reliable Wines Only.

The guarantee of the character of a wine

Calvet & Co.'s Claret and Burgundies have

acquired a world-wide reputation among

the known reliability of the house.

councisseurs. For sale by the School Co. and other leading dealers.

CYCLONES IN THE WEST.

Worst Storms Ever Known in the San Juan Range.

LANDS COVERED WITH A TORRENT.

Over Four Feet of Snow Fell During the Past Three Days.

Iwo Distinct Blizzards in Minnesota Buildings Demolished\_Trees Up-rooted\_Snow Bluckades on the Railroads-Crops Destroyed,

Manton, ILL., Feb. 26 .- A cyclone passing from southwest to northeast struck this county Monday night about 8 o'clock. The pathway was about 300 yards wide. Houses, fences and timber were leveled to the ground, resulting in heavy loss to those living within its reach. No lives were lost, so far as heard from, but some persons were seriously injured. The Lemuster schoolhouse was completely wrecked. Heavy rains attended the wind and lasted five hours, completely overflowing small streams.

HARTFORD CITY, IND., Feb. 26 -Re-

ports from the Mississippi River on the

south, and the Salamonica on the north, state that they are the highest ever known. Both the first and second bottom lands are covered with a raging torrent. The damage to stock, small buildings, fences and bridges is great. DENVER, Col., Feb. 26 -The South Division of the Denver and Rio Grande is again cut off from the world by a new snow blockade on the Cambres Range. Over four feet of snow fell during the past three days. The railroad cuts, where the snow reached above the tops of the coaches left from the last storm, have again been filled to overflowing by the high winds that have blown during the storm. Superintendent Lydon says it is the worst

storm on the San Juan range since the road was built. Chicago, Feb. 26.—A special from Brainerd, Minn., last night says: Two distinct blizzards are raging in this State, one of which has reached a point state, one of which has reached a point just west of here, while the other is sweeping east in the southern portion of the State, along the Minnesota Southern railroad. A gale from the northwest is blowing and the heavy snow drifting badly. The Northern Pacific through express present the control of the c passed through from the West, running ahead of the storm. St. Vincent re-ports 35 degrees below zero at 6 o'clock, with the crest of the cold wave still behind. Railroad officers report all lines still open. No casualties have been re-ported West of this point.

NEENAH, WIS., Feb. 26.-A genuine blizzard struck this section yesterday afternoon. Last night the snow was drifting badly and trains on the various roads were all late. The bitzzard was raging all day on the upper peninsula in Michigan Railroad men say it is the worst of the senson.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Feb. 26 .- A tor-

nado yesterday unroofed a new cotton

compress near the depot demolishing the Northern Methodist Church and

damaging a number of other buildings. Shade trees were uprooted by the wind and tossed about like straws. Many telegraph wires were prostrated. STILLWATER. MINN., Feb. 28 .- The most terriffic brizzard of the winter has been blowing here since 8 o'clock yesterday morning. The snow covered the street railway tracks so completely that all electric trains were at a stand-

still by the middle of yesterday after CELEBONIA MINN Fob 96 -A winter has apparently set in in south-castern Minnesota. Yesterday's storm is the worst in two years. Wagon traffic altogether suspended and wheeling

on the railway is heavy. Озикози, Wis., Feb. 26.—Shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday a blizzard of great violence struck this city. In less han half an hour three inches of snow had fallen, and it has been with the greatest difficulty that the street cars were kept going. The wind blew a gale. The storm was by will be keenly felt in the lumber camps where the snow was already so deep

that logging operations were carried on with great difficulty. WICHITA, KAN,, Feb. 26 -It was five fear that winter wheat will be injured. The wind from the northwest has been most severe. It is reported that a team-ster, John Boulton, froze to death last night, twenty five miles southeast of here. Suffering is expected in the north-

western part of the State. Jaceson, Miss., Feb. 26.—This county was visited by terrents of rain Monday night, and last night it was raining. The streams were higher than ever before. The track of the Jackson Branch Railroad is under water in places. The dications are that the floods will play smash with the railroads in the lands near Delta, this county, if they have not already done so. No refrom the country have been received, but the loss must amount to

thousands of dollars. DES MOINES, IOWA, Feb. 26 .- A blizzard of pretty large dimensions visited lowa yesterday. Snow fell to the depth of about two inches in the earlie part of the day, but ceased toward evening. Last night the wind was pretty strong from the northwest, and it was growing colder rapidly, but no se rious interference with travel has yet occurred and none is looked for unless with heavier snowfall. The storm is great disappointment to the lows peo de, as everybody was wishing deasant weather on Thursday. lay set for the inauguration of a new Governor.

Sioux Crry, Iowa, Feb. 26.-A blizzard set in here at midnight Monday night and continued till yesteaday afterncon. The wind blew forty miles an hour, badly drifting the six inches of snow that had fallen. The storm prevailed throughout South Dakota and Northern Nebraska, but railroad communication has not been much in terrupted. The temporary temperature but it was growing intensely cold last

ville, a small town ten miles east of here, was severely damaged by a cyclone vesterday morning. Nearly every build-ing in the town is damaged. So far as known no lives were lost. At last acthe people were all engaged in endeav

oring to save their moveable property. New Gas Lamps,

The District Commissioners have or dered the erection of gas lamps in the following localities: Northwest corner Thirteenth street and Riggs Place; north side of Riggs Place, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets; south side do., 2; west side Seventeenth street,

between R and S; northeast corner Say enteenth street and Riggs Place; south-east corner Seventeenth and S streets; northwest corner do., north side S street, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets; south side do.; west side Twenty-fifth street, between H and I: northeast and northwest corners Twenty-fifth and H streets; north side H street, be-tween Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth; south side H street, at juncture of Virginia avenue; south side Maine avenue, between Third and Four and a half streets; cast side Four and a half street, between Maryland and Maine avenues southwest; north side Maine avenue, between Third and Four-and-a-half streets, 2; southwest corner Maryland ivenue, between Third and Four and ahalf streets; northeast corner Third and B streets; north side B street, between Third and Four and a half; Arthur Place, 3; alloy in square 242.

### BOUNDARY STREET.

Changing Its Name to Florida Avenue

At a meeting of the Board of District Commissioners held on the evening of January 14 last it was resolved that the name of Boundary street in this city should be changed to Florida avenue, and that the Engineer Department have the name changed on all the lamp-posts long that street in accordance with the

This resolution seems to have been passed without warrant of law, and, in view of the facts that two-thirds of the citizens of the District know nothing about the change and persons high in authority refuse to recognize the action of the Commissioners, the present state of the affair, it is thought, will be sure to lead to endless confusion, if not to

erious legal complications.
When the Commissioners announced the change of the name of the street they gave as the reason that persons at a distance desiring to invest in city property would not buy lots on that street as the name was prima facie evidence that the locality was at the outskirts of the town, and therefore property on that thoroughfare was at a disadvantage. But the board failed to give their authority for the change, and, without entering into the subjects of motive or justice, their action is said to be clearly illegal and therefore null and void.

Mr. Silas C. Clark, a venerable resident of the District, who has paid close attention to such matters, said to a representative of The Chitic "The act of 1871, creating the Territorial form of Government, expressly pro-vides that laws then existing should remain in force until changed by act of Congress. No authority has been delegated by Congress since then to change the name of streets, either to the Territhe name of streets, either to the Terri-torial or any other form of government in the District. The only act that Con-gress ever passed delegating special pow-ers to the board was the one of January 26, 1887, giving them the right to create certain police regulations of a sanitary nature, etc., and these powers were clearly defined and enumerated. If the Board of Commissioners have the power to call Boundary street Florida avenue they also have the power to call Pennsylvania avenue Boundary street. Confusion will result, because property in being described in

decds and mortgages will sometimes be bounded by Florida street on the north or south and the same pieces at other times be recorded as on Bound-"I think the street should be changed and called an avenue after some State, but it should be done by Congress, and I notice that when Senator Ingalls reported a bill on the 17th instant to deand on the 19th, when Senator Morrill reported another for the same purpose, they both ignore the action of the Com

missioners by referring to the thorough-

fare in question as Boundary street.

"It is a grand avenue, the longest continuous perfectly straight street in Pennsylvania avenue is straight from its eastern terminus until it reaches the Capitol, and then it deflects southward to the Treasury, again deflecting north ward to Georgetown. That avenue is also two widths, being 160 feet wide to the Treasury and 120 feet wide west of that point. Massachusetts avenue is that point. Massachusetts avenue is four and a half miles long, with a uniorm width of 160 feet, but there is a light bend in it at New Jersey aver Boundary street is not only straight for a long stretch, but very high and bealthful, and will make a beautiful drive. Being the only street that runs parallel with Pennsylvania and Massa. busetts avenues, it should be named after some State and called an avenue but the Commissioners are not the

persons to do it, because it is a dangerous thing to vest any body of men with both legislative and executive power.'

BEIGHTWOOD AVENUE HELLS

Urgent Appeals to the Commissioners The attention of the District Com missioners has been called in a letter from Mrs. Harris, 2012 Brightwood avenue, to the injurious effects, both to morals and property, of the existence of the pool selling rooms in the locality just outside the Boundary, nicknamed "Monte Carlo," Mrs. Harris says; "I have lived in close proximity to

these gambling-houses ever since they

were thrust upon the square. I have been shocked by the recklessness, lawessness and profanity that follow in their wake. After recounting at some length en-creachments said to have been made on her property in the erection of the poor rooms, Mrs. Harris continues: "Only vesterday a tenant of mine, who lives in frame house on Princeton street, near Brightwood avenue, came to me in tears, with only a portion of her rent. She was without fuel, and had not a morsel of food in her house. Her eldest son, who earns good wages, had spent his entire earnings in these gambling houses, and the distracted, heart broken mother had no breakfast to offer her family. The son cursed his widowed mother, and told her that he hoped I

would put her out of doors.

'How long shall these abominations be tolerated' My properly on the squares occupied by these densis greatly depreciated in value owing to their esence. I have been obliged to sell hree pieces of property within four ears, and these at rufnous prices. Will you be so kind and honorable as look these things squarely in the

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